an opposite half of the front portion of the vest adjacent the central slit, the vest further comprising a collar extending upwardly from a rear portion of a neck opening formed in the vest;

a plurality of cargo pockets coupled to a lower extent of both halves of the front portion of the vest, each pocket having a lid coupled along a top edge thereof with a pile fastener situated thereon for releasably coupling with another pile fastener situated on a front face of the pocket;

an inflatable bladder comprising a rear portion with a generally rectangular configuration and a pair of front portions each with a generally square configuration, the front portions coupled along rear edges thereof to the rear portion thereby defining a neck aperture, a top surface of the bladder having pile fasteners coupled thereto for releasably coupling with a plurality of pile fasteners positioned on an interior of the vest, wherein the front and rear portions of the bladder reside in an upper half of the vest;

an air actuation mechanism including a mounting assembly attached to the top surface of one of the front portions of the inflatable bladder and situated within the vest, the mounting assembly including a threaded opening in communication with the inflatable bladder thereby equipped for releasably receiving a cylindrical pressurized air canister, a valve slidably situated above the threaded opening with a pin coupled to a bottom surface thereof and a spring situated between the valve and the threaded opening, the valve having a first unbiased orientation wherein the pin sits distant the threaded opening and a second biased orientation wherein the pin resides within the threaded opening for effecting the release of air from the pressurized air canister, the mounting

assembly further including a lever pivotally attached to the mounting assembly and adapted to transfer the valve to the second biased orientation upon the pivoting thereof;

an automatic air actuator including a motor coupled to the mounting assembly and an interconnection member having a first end eccentrically coupled to the motor and a second end attached to the lever, the motor adapted to pivot the lever of the mounting assembly upon the actuation thereof, the automatic air actuator further including a water switch adapted to actuate the motor upon the detection of water;

a manual air actuator including a pull cord having a first end coupled to the lever of the mounting assembly and a second end extending through an aperture formed in the vest with a handle coupled thereto, whereby the pull cord is adapted to pivot the lever of the mounting assembly upon the pulling thereof; and

a manual pump having a hemispherical configuration with a planar surface mounted to one of the front portions of the inflatable bladder on a half of the front portion of the vest [opposite the air actuation mechanism], the manual pump adapted for [serving] inflating the bladder upon the repeated depression thereof.

2. (Amended) An inflatable life vest comprising:

a vest;

an inflatable bladder situated within the vest;

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an air actuation mechanism including a mounting assembly attached to a top surface of [one of the] a front portion[s] of the inflatable bladder and situated within the vest, the mounting assembly including a threaded opening in communication with the inflatable bladder for releasably receiving a cylindrical pressurized air canister and a valve slidably situated above the threaded opening with a pin coupled to a bottom surface thereof and a spring situated between the valve and the threaded opening, the valve having a first unbiased orientation wherein the pin sits distant the threaded opening and a second biased orientation wherein the pin resides within the threaded opening for effecting the release of air from the pressurized air canister, the mounting assembly further including a lever pivotally attached to the mounting assembly and adapted to transfer the valve to the second biased orientation upon the pivoting thereof; [and]

an automatic air actuator including a rotary motor [means] coupled to the mounting assembly and an interconnection member having a first end eccentrically coupled to the motor and a second end attached to the lever [and in communication with the lever], the motor adapted to pivot the lever of the mounting assembly upon the actuation thereof, the automatic air actuator further including a water switch adapted to actuate the motor upon the detection of water; and

a manual air actuator including a pull cord having a first end coupled to the lever of the mounting assembly and a second end with a handle coupled thereto, whereby the pull cord is adapted to pivot the lever of the mounting assembly upon the pulling thereof.

Please cancel claims 3 & 10.